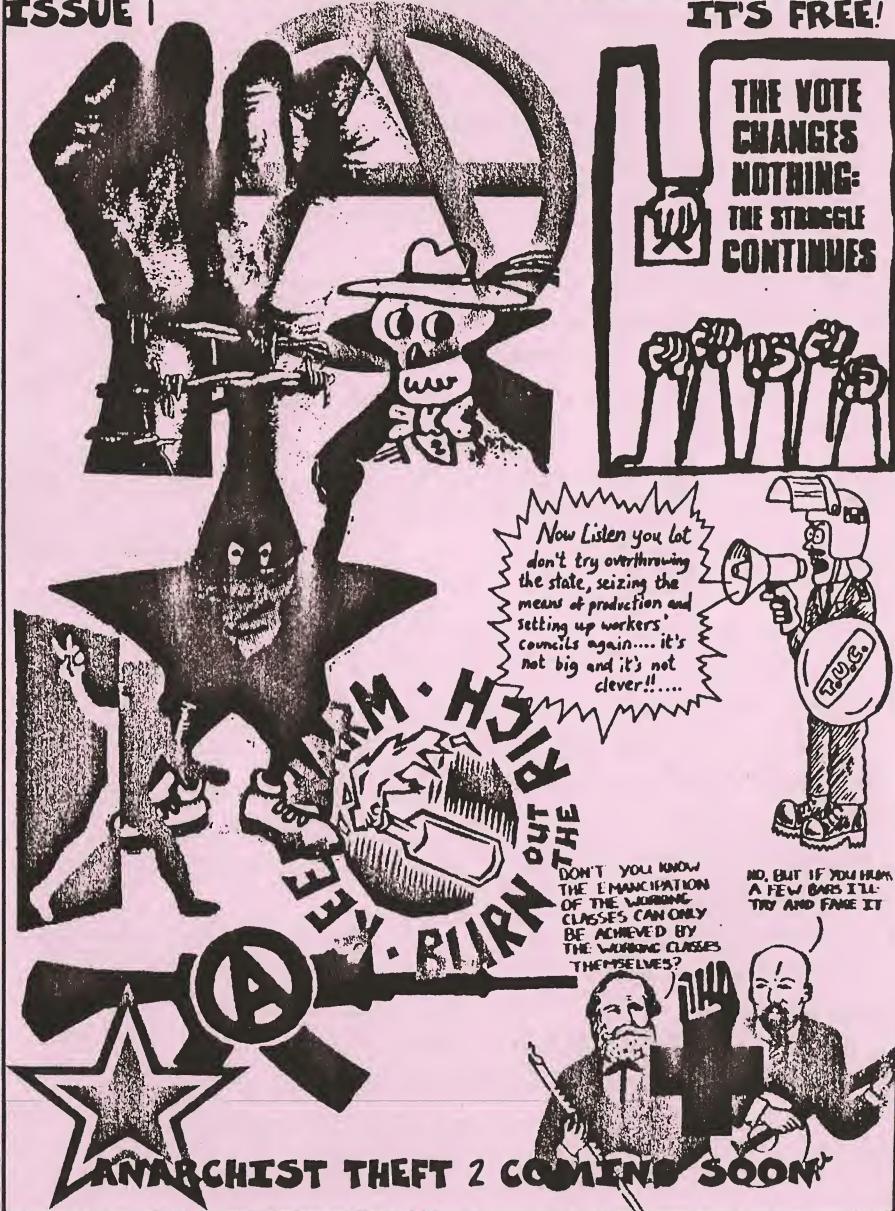


ANARCHIST THEFT ★

ISSUE 1

IT'S FREE!



BASIC ANARCHISM

Anarchism is revolutionary anti-state communism. In practical terms, anarchists aim for the destruction of the power of the ruling class and of all relationships based on domination and submission. This means taking over our industries and communities and changing them so as to meet the needs of both ourselves and the environment. Without this take-over we can struggle against capitalism but never replace it.

Anarchism will be created by millions of people, not a dictatorial elite (we are not Marxist-Leninists) and all will have their part to play in sharing it. Power will lie with the organisations thrown up by and for the revolution, not with the political parties who will try to dominate and destroy them.

The new society will not be born through abstract ideas, but will come out of the realities of struggle and the need for working class people to unite. Such struggle doesn't just involve resistance to ruling class power (strikes, mass protests and other forms of direct action) but also construction - The building of new locally based federal organisations (examples of which go from the original workers councils of the Russian revolution to the miners support groups of the 1984/5). The forging of solidarity between different groups and the establishment of a viable counter-culture.

There is no truce in the class war, the answer to ruling class power is continual and ever widening struggle for social revolution and anarchism

ANARCHIST THEFT

is a revolutionary class struggle paper.
Its aim is to spread anti-state, anti-capitalist and anti-authoritarian ideas within the working class.

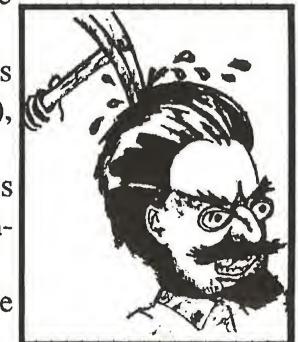


TROTSKY

TWENTY THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT HIM.

In the history of the Russian revolution the figure of Trotsky stands forth as a shining example of revolutionary leadership. As commander of the Bolshevik red army he ruthlessly crushed any opposition, from any source, by any mean. Later when the Bolshevik regime became increasingly dictatorial and the crimes against the working class grew Trotsky was able to take decisive action. Rejecting anarchist notions of smashing the state he saw clearly that the best way to fight the Bolshevik terror was, in fact, to try and become party leader. And he even failed in that. So to pay homage to this great man we bring you twenty things you never knew about Trotsky:

- 1) 'Trotsky' is in fact a pen name for Lev Davydovich Bronstein, meaning (originally enough) 'THE PEN'.
- 2) The leader of the French fascists the National Front is called Jean Marie LE PEN.
- 3) Whilst LE PEN might like to have striking workers shot THE PEN actually managed this at Petrograd.
- 4) And he had insurgent anarchists shot in the Ukraine from 1918 to 1921.
- 5) And revolutionary sailors at Kronstadt in March 1921.
- 6) In fact, he was so keen on mass slaughter he even had one in ten of his own men shot
- 7) A conservationist before his time Trotsky was fond of game hunting (particularly partridges), no doubt to make room for other species, eh?
- 8) As a scientific Marxist-Leninist Trotsky was able to make incredible accurate Historical-Materialist predictions.
- 9) Such as that Capitalism could not survive the Second World War.
- 10) And that the Trotskyist Fourth International would become the



major force leading the way to world revolution.

11) Yes I know you've never heard of it but I can assure you several fragments of it are still out there somewhere. Probably. If they haven't disappeared up their own arseholes.

12) As a true Democratic Centralist Trotsky favoured one man management of industry (no prizes for guessing which one man).

13) He also favoured compulsory labour (or slavery as it is also known). To quote the great man: "Labour, obligatory for the whole country, compulsory for ever worker, is the basis of Socialism".

14) In fact he had a soft spot for compulsion in general. As he also said: "The element of state compulsion not only does not disappear from the historical arena but on the contrary will still play, for a considerable period. An extremely prominent part".

15) For other inspiring quotes his book 'Terrorism and Communism' can be recommended.

16) By his great strength of character Trotsky was able to rise above petit bourgeois vanities.....by having a white leather uniform tailor made for him!

17) And he had one of those silly helmets with a point on the top.

18) There was one good thing that entered his head though... the ice pick that killed him! To this day the followers of Trotsky are known by their friends and admirers as ice pick heads in remembrance of this.

19) And as for these Trotskyists around today, what can we say? From Militant threatening to grass up rioters to the cops to the Socialist Workers Party dismissing poll tax non payment as futile these people are clearly doing their best to live up to the disgraceful example set by their guru.

20) Oh alright then, in fact Anarchists aren't very keen on Trotsky or his followers. Or Lenin, Stalin or Mao for that matter. These are not people who tried to follow a different route from the Anarchists to a free communist society - These are people who actively opposed it by every means at their disposal, and their followers still do today.



THE GENERAL ELECTION

John Major has called the general election for the 1st of May, but what choice have we the working class got? The answer is simple none, the vote has never changed anything and never will its just a choice between different representatives of the ruling class.

This country and all other countries are ruled by the capitalist class. The bosses, politicians, judges, police chiefs etc.

The class struggle is waged by them against us all the time. In their attacks on wages, the environment we live in, on health care and in their repressive laws etc.

The only way forward is to forget about the vote and fight back, to take the class struggle to the bosses its the only way of resisting their attacks now and fighting for a better world where the scrounge of wage slavery has been abolished, a world where there are no class differences, national boundaries or inequalities. A world worth fighting for. Examples of this fight can be seen in the widespread battles of the Poll Tax and in the present day struggles of the Liverpool dockers and the anti-road protests.

THE VOTE CHANGES NOTHING THE CLASS STRUGGLE CONTINUES!

COMING SOON IN ISSUE TWO

More articles on the left.
Workers councils.
Post election.
& much more.

ANARCHIST COMMUNISM



OR DEATH

BEYOND DEMOCRACY FOR REVOLUTION AND THE FUTURE SOCIETY

A discussion meeting in 2 sessions:
Democracy and The Future Society

In the first half we will be looking at the commodification of society, the idea of 'rights', and a critique of democracy, including that within revolutionary politics. What then is the basis of our politics?

In the second half we will examine possible features of the post-revolutionary society with reference to: decision-making on a local and global level; technology; human relations and the individual within society; the 'ownership' and distribution of resources; the shaping of our environment.

On Saturday 7th June in Central England

For members of ACF and Subversion and sympathisers only
(see address on the back page.)
If you need a creche please ask for a creche registration form as well.

GREEN POLITICS: THE GOD THAT FAILED ?

Ten years ago albeit on a vague and rather direction less level, I became involved in Green Politics. At the time it seemed a natural focus for my energies, all the more so given the absence of any other visible Revolutionary grouping in my home town. Moreover, the greens at that time really did seem to be going somewhere and I found myself more than ready to accept their rhetoric of being able to forge a totally new politics, going beyond the traditional left/right dichotomy of the Industrial age.

Today, though, what remains of this vision and why do I find it harder and harder to define myself as a green, even from a revolutionary, anti-capitalist and staunchly anarchist perspective?

On an organisational level, A lot of time, energy and resources has been wasted on the twin evil of electioneering and reformism. Putting up candidates for elections is to be quite honest a complete Fucking waste of time and shows a political illiteracy beyond belief on the part of those still willing to participate in this mindless charade. In the past, where Socialist and communist candidates have been voted into power what have they done but create a veneer of social welfare around the edifice of monopoly capital, If that at all. Like wise, where greens have attained power (note the word attained here rather than destroyed their track record has hardly been any better. In Germany, home of the much feted "die Grunen" they have collaborated with right wing social democrats in Berlin in order to evict squatters, whilst in other parts of the country they have actually come out in support of "civil" nuclear power programmes!

At the end of the day, not only does all power corrupt, but the people at the top quite simply won't allow themselves and their immense wealth, power and status to be swept away by an occasional tick in the box. As the old anarchist slogan goes "if voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal.

To be fair, there are those in the green movement who do recognise to some



degree the limitations to electionism but still insist on putting up candidates at election times on the grounds that elections provide a golden opportunity for the dissemination of propaganda. Sorry, but I don't think that this washes at all either. The money spent on deposits which will undoubtedly be lost could be better spent elsewhere whilst whatever the initial intentions of the candidate, illusions in the nature of the system and in the way in which social change occurs will inevitably be fostered by any involvement at all in the electoral circus. The problem is not merely an aspect of power but power itself and any analysis that falls short of this will at some point end up in the counter revolutionary camp.

On the other side of the coin, we have the question of reformism. Personally, I don't have any problem in campaigning around certain demands and in the achievements of small victories. Gains whether they be the saving of a fox's life, the cancellation of a motorway, or the winning of a strike against a boss are worthwhile things in and of themselves. Since not only do they impede the onslaught of capital and thereby make peoples lives better but they can also, in the right environment, serve as stepping stones to revolution. If people can see no advantage in involving themselves in radical politics and lack the confidence to take on even the smallest of struggles, total revolution at some unspecified point in the future will hardly seem an attractive proposition. No, the problem of reformism in terms of the green movement is when it gives the impression that capitalism can be transformed by piecemeal reforms thereby overcoming the need for any specifically revolutionary movement or period. As long as capital and the state exist so will profit, domination and hierarchy, and in turn, as long as they exist so will the abuse of people, animals and the land, end of story. Funny, too, how belief in long term piecemeal reforms of the system on the part of the greens can co-exist with their very often apocalyptic vision which stresses the very immediacy of total ecological breakdown. Given doomsday is nearly upon us, I wouldn't have thought reformism was an option even if it was possible!!

If all of this wasn't enough, the general way in which the green movement has tried to operate outside of the confines of standard political orthodoxy is also fairly appalling. Of particular concerns are the activities of the lifestylist brigade. Given that the personal is political and given that any movement that fails to address legitimate questions of work, culture and relationships can hardly be said to be revolutionary, lifestylistism as such is not a problem and indeed many anarchists have gone way overboard in their attacks on it. (Surprising, too, how intolerant many people are of the ways others choose to live their lives) Lifestylistism only becomes a problem when it masquerades as a revolutionary option in and of itself, totally divorced from wider social realities. For many

in the green movement it has become an obsessive fantasy, and a dangerous one at that. History shows that capital rarely, if ever, allows you to do exactly as you want to do on any meaningful, progressive level and that it can never be ignored, wished away or partied out of existence.

The green movement also appears to have hardy moved on in other respects and in many areas seemed to have gone completely backwards. The cult of non-violence and civil disobedience, a fascination with new age and pagan nonsense (or at best a pseudo libertarian refusal to condemn it), a crudely mathusian outlook and, related to this, an overwhelming tendency to equally blame everyone for the present crisis being particularly salient features here. Basically, if the green movement is serious about bringing about change, it should first of all take a good long look at itself — There's a fair chance it might not like all that it sees

Steve

THE BOSS

When the body was first made, all the parts wanted to be boss. The brain said, "Since I control everything and do all the thinking, I should be boss." The feet said, "Since I carry man where he wants to go and get him in position to do what the brain wants, I should be boss." The eyes said, "Since I must look out for all of you and tell you all where danger lurks, I should be boss". And so it went with the heart, the ears, the lungs, and finally the ass hole spoke up and demanded that he be made boss. All the other parts laughed and laughed, astounded at the idea of an ass hole being boss. The brain thought this idea of an ass hole being boss was absurd and said so.

The ass hole was so angry that he locked himself off and refused to function. The brain became feverish, the eyes became crossed and ached, the feet were too weak to walk, the hands hung limply at the sides, the heart and lungs struggled to keep going. All the parts pleaded with the brain to relent and let the ass hole be the boss and so it happened. All the other parts did all the work and the ass hole just bossed and passed out a lot of shit.

THE MORAL — You don't have to be a brain to be boss.

Just An Ass Hole.



SHOPLIFTING

Shoplifting. It's the perfect crime - easy, quick, effective and satisfying. See what you want, work out the best way to get your hands on it, then just take it. Shoplifting improves your lifestyle and pokes a finger in the eyes of big business at the same time. In fact, it's such a normal part of everyday life for so many people that it's difficult to think of it as being a crime at all.

Yet some people, including many left wingers, still say that you can't justify shoplifting: they say it's immoral, dishonest, illegal, selfish and greedy. Well, greed and selfishness can be a problem - we must share the goodies around, think of others when we put our hands in our pockets. But as for the rest, it sounds suspiciously like the old trendy-lefty martyr complex - you know, if it makes my life a little more bearable now, then it must be wrong. Here's another way of seeing it:

* Shoplifting is **MORE ACCESSIBLE** than the world of big business: anyone can do it, and many of the people whom big business usually shits on (parents with prams and wheelchair-bound, for example) have a positive advantage.

* Shoplifting is **LESS IMMORAL** than big business: it doesn't exploit workers, kill animals, destroy rain forests or give cancer to children.

* Shoplifting is **MORE HONEST** than big business: shoplifters don't pretend to be providing a public service, they don't create artificial shortages, nor do they invent myths of fashion or style.

* Shoplifting is illegal, but **SO ARE MOST THINGS THAT DAMAGE PROFITS**: armed insurrection, industrial sabotage, most strikes and many demonstrations, are illegal, but this doesn't prevent them getting widespread support from lefties.

If you think I'm being flippant, then perhaps I am. To be honest, it seems that it's actually easier to justify shoplifting than to justify paying for the things we need.

Shoplifting can have a personal impact, too. As well as making life easier, it can help change the way you see shops and the things they sell.



When you've got no money its easy to wander around the shops and get hypnotised by all the goodies, to start thinking "if only I had that.. and that.. and that .. then everything would be aright" You feel this way because you associate certain goods with certain lifestyles: not so much the crude links of the Margarine for men, but more subtle ones drawn from ads aimed directly at your "market segment".

But because you gave up nothing to get the things you shoplift, mealy owning them means nothing. Shoplifting removes the glamour from goods, it devalues them so that their worth is measured only by how useful they are. And, as the things that you've shoplifted become truly price-less, you see more clearly than ever before. That no amount of books, records, drugs, clothes, food and drink could ever compensate for the misery this society creates.

If you're still dubious about the whole thing, ask yourself why? Perhaps you still feel that shoplifting is just wrong? As we grow up we learn rules, mainly from our parents, that shape the way we live. This happens to all of us, mostly without us even noticing. Its that little voice in your head, the nagging feeling that tells you which things are right, and which are wrong.

You probably call this little voice your conscience. But it isn't really your, in fact it isn't a natural part of you at all. Its simply a part of the society that you (and your parents before you) grew up in - the very society you want to change. So when the little voice stops you from fighting back, encourages you to put up with things as they are, don't call it your conscience. Call it the **THOUGHT POLICE** and give it as much respect as you'd give any copper (This doesn't mean its OK to do whatever you like when you like, with no regard for anyone else. But once you realise why the little voice speaks up when it does, its easier to ignore it when its talking crap)

Enough of that old chat - if you're still reading then you're probably convinced. Here's some basic tips on how to do it. Read them, think about them, talk about them with your friends. **THEN GET OUT THERE AND USE THEM!!!**



THE 'OUR PRICE' TOP TEN TIPS!

- 1) Don't dress up like a terrorist every time you go shopping. Be as bland and uninteresting as possible Choose boring clothes with conveniently placed large pockets
- 2) Know your shops. Work out what security they have, where the blind spots are, and when they're busiest - for most shops this will be Saturdays, and between twelve and two during the week.
- 3) Watch out for cameras, mirrors, one-way glass. None of these things are much use except as a deterrent, but don't take un-necessary risks.
- 4) Take a knife to cut plastic security tags off clothing, by cutting either the plastic or the cloth. Pliers are useful, too: tags can sometimes be removed by pinching the two halves tightly, then pulling or sliding the two halves apart. Changing rooms are usually the best place for this. Remember that shops which use security tags are usually lax about the rest of their security.
- 5) Cultivate useful habits that involve reaching inside your clothing: blow your nose frequently, have an itch in the small of your back. And always try to appear ten times more stupid than you are. But make sure you don't overdo it, or you'll look nervous. Always carry things in your hands like gloves, a bag, a newspaper, or anything else that might conceal small objects (jewellery, cassettes, books, many types of food) by simply folding it around them.
- 6) Work out ways to throw store detectives off the trail: you might buy some cheap items and only steal the more expensive ones - a good way to approach your food shopping, as many of the more expensive goodies are conveniently pocket sized; make a point of speaking to an assistant before you leave the shop - this gives you a chance to look around you a bit and see if you're being watched, and might confuse any suspicious store detectives.
- 7) Always remove price tags and brand labels as soon as you can - go to a public toilet (watch out for plainclothes police), or examine your goodies at leisure over a cup of coffee.
- 8) Take advantage of circumstances, like crowds, bomb scares, fire alarms, complaining customers or gossiping shop assistants.
- 9) Work with some friends. Working together you can shield each other from view, create diversions, and stash the first lot of goodies somewhere else whilst you go back for more - then if you're caught, you've got less stuff on you.
- 10) If you do get grabbed, it'll almost definitely be by a store detective. If you can, its usually best to drop the goodies and run. Otherwise don't tell them anything, and don't admit to anything at all - they can't prosecute you without proof.

GET ORGANISED

LOCAL ANARCHIST GROUPS

Sheffield Anarchist Group /Anarchist Communist Federation / Anarchist Black Cross PO Box 446 Sheffield S1 1NY.

Huddersfield A.B.C. c/o 17-21 Chapel Street Bradford BD1 5DT.

Tyneside Anarchist Group P.O. Box ITA Fenham Newcastle NE99 ITA

Cambridge Anarchist Group Box A 12 Mill Road Cambridge CB1 2AD

Liverpool Anarchist Group P.O. Box 110 Liverpool L69 8DP

NATIONAL ANARCHIST GROUPS AND ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN ORGANISATIONS

Anarchist Black Cross c/o121 Railton Rd London SE24.

Anarchist Communist Federation 84b Whitechapel High St London E1 7QX.

Class War PO Box 467 London E8 3QX.

Kate Sharpley Library BM Hurricane London WC1N 3XX

London Greenpeace 5 Caledonian Rd London N1.

Scottish Federation of Anarchists Box 1008 Glasgow G42 8AA.

Solidarity Federation PO Box 29 Manchester M15 5NW.

Subversion Dept 10 1 Newton St Manchester M11HW.



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